(b) the reasons for not declaring results after the interview by the Commission after the pronouncement of verdicts in the High Courts; and

(c) whether suspicion and corruption develop with the delay in declaring result and the steps Government would take to bring the transparency in the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) The procedure adopted by the Commission is to declare the results of candidates selected through interviews through a recommendation letter to the concerned Department/Ministry giving details of the recommended candidate(s) for the specified post(s). Normally, such letter is sent within a week of conclusion of interviews. Besides this, the results are also intimated to the concerned candidate(s) through registered post within a week's time after the interviews are over. The same are also simultaneously put on the Commission's website and subsequently published in the 'Employment News'/ 'Rozgar Samachar' every 2nd and 4th week of the month alongwith the Commission's Advertisement for the direct recruitment cases.

(b) Where the process of filling up of any post through interview by the Commission is stayed by any Hon. Court/High Court, the same is declared as soon as possible as per the verdict of the concerned court.

(c) As there is normally no delay in declaration of result, there is no question of development of suspicion or corruption. Moreover, putting the results on the Commission's website as also publishing the same in 'Employment News/ 'Rozgar Samachar' every 2nd and 4th week of the month lends a great deal of transparency to the system.

Boom in gold mining

4890. SHRI B.J. PANDA :
MISS MABEL REBELLO :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the media reports captioned "Australian firm caught in lure of Indian gold";

(b) whether we are heading towards gold mining boom with foreign assistance;

(c) if so, details of the potential as per the estimates of Geological Survey of India;

(d) whether we lack in mining techniques and depend on foreign agencies; and

(e) if so, what are our handicaps and shortcomings and when we would be able to overcome these?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) From time to time media reports regarding mines and minerals are brought to the notice of the Ministry of Mines, Government of India. Mineral Concessions are granted by State Governments as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder for undertaking reconnaissance/prospecting/mining operations. As per Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act., 1957, a mineral concession can be granted to an Indian national or a company as defined under Section 3 (1) of the Companies Act, 1956. Indian Subsidiaries of multinational companies like De Beers India Prospecting Private Limited, BHP Minerals India Private Limited, M/s ACC-Rio Tinto, M/s Phelps Dodge Exploration Private Limited and Anglo-American Exploration (India) Private Limited have been granted large area prospecting licences and reconnaissance permits for aerial survey of gold and associated minerals in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(c) As per Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a Subordinate Office of Ministry of Mines a total recoverable reserve of 19.750 million tonnes of gold ore (equivalent to 88.03 tonnes of gold metal) as on 1.4.2000 is available in India. Besides, Geological Survey of India (GSI), a Subordinate Office of Ministry of Mines has located 17 gold bearing prospects/deposits in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

(d) and (e) The National Mineral Policy, 1993 had recognized the importance of initiative and co-operation of the private sector in consolidating survey and exploration requirement of the country. Although India has got very long history and experience in gold mining, mining has been limited to relatively high-grade deposits of a minimum of 3 gms/tonne of primary gold. New gold dissolution methods, better media for solvent or resin extraction and new bacteriological techniques could improve production technology and utilization of lower grade sources.

Mine closure plan

4891. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to empower village Panchayats to grant prospecting licences by amending mining regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;